Satellite Hyperspectral Sensor Workshop

The NASA OCO-2 CO_2 directed satellite mission:

- What does NASA consider as its capabilities?
- Operational uses by NOAA?
- What does NASA consider as an appropriate NOAA operational follow-on mission

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30 March, 2011

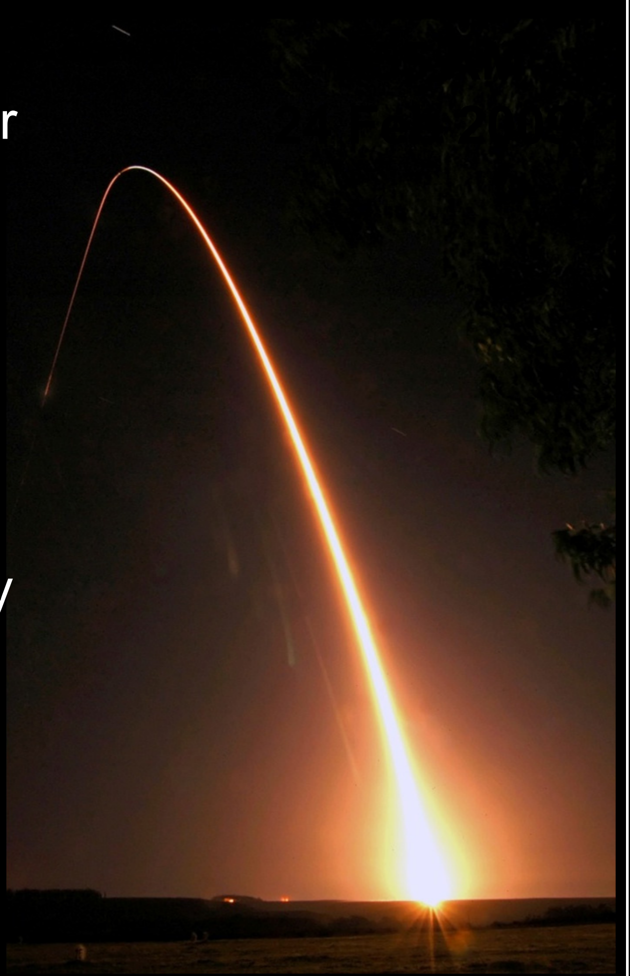
The Loss of OCO and the Birth of OCO-2

- NASA's Orbiting Carbon Observatory (OCO) was designed to provide the measurements needed to estimate the atmospheric CO_2 dry air mole fraction (X_{CO2}) with the sensitivity, accuracy, and sampling density needed to quantify regional scale carbon sources and sinks over the globe and characterize their behavior over the annual cycle.

- February 2009: The OCO spacecraft was lost when its launch vehicle's fairing failed to deploy

- December 2009: The U.S. Congress added funding to the NASA FY2010 budget to restart the OCO Mission

- The OCO-2 spacecraft bus and instrument are currently on track for a February 2013 launch



Capabilities of OCO-2

- A decade ago, when the OCO mission was proposed, the primary objective was to acquire global, space-based observations of CO_2 with the precision, coverage, and resolution needed to characterize regional scale natural CO_2 sinks, which are now absorbing more than half of the CO_2 that is being emitted by human activities
- More recently, the interest in global, space-based observations of greenhouse has intensified, but the focus has shifted, emphasizing the need to quantify emissions from human activities
  - The current emphasis is on monitoring treaty compliance and the efficacy of greenhouse gas mitigation strategies
- This change in focus, combined with new insight into the carbon cycle has introduced new challenges for remote sensing observations of greenhouse gases
- While OCO-2 is not optimized for that mission, it will provide opportunities to validate observation strategies for future CO_2 monitoring missions

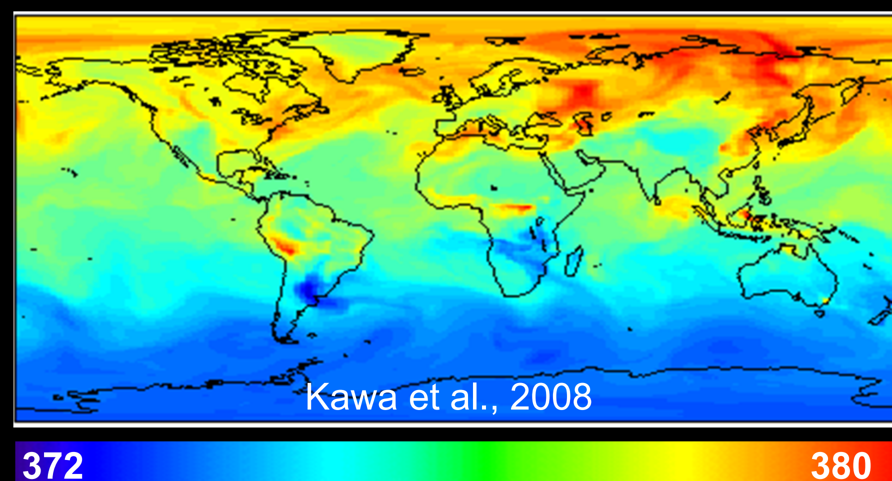
Global Measurements are Essential

- To limit the rate of atmospheric carbon dioxide buildup, we must
  - Control emissions associated with human activities
  - Understand & exploit natural processes that absorb carbon dioxide

We cannot manage what we cannot measure

- Identifying sources and sinks of atmospheric carbon dioxide from atmospheric measurements is intrinsically challenging

Plumes from medium-sized power plants (4 MtC/yr) elevate X_{CO2} levels by ~0.5% (2ppm) for 10's of km downwind [Yang and Fung, 2010].



Variations of CO_2 are rarely larger than 1-2% on 100 – 1000 km scales

Is 1 ppm Good Enough?

Large metropolitan areas with strong, discrete sources are easier to detect, but also rarely produce full column X_{CO2} perturbations larger than 1 ppm

TABLE B.3 Expected CO_2 Signals for Selected Metropolitan Areas

City	Area (km^2)[a]	Emissions (Mton CO_2 yr^{-1})	Emissions ($\mu mol\ m^{-2}\ s^{-1}$)	Total Column (ppm)	PBL (1 km) (ppm)
Los Angeles	3,700	73.2	14.2	0.49	4.3
Chicago	2,800	79.1	20.3	0.60	5.4
Houston	3,300	101.8	22.2	0.72	6.4
Indianapolis	900	20.1	16.1	0.27	2.4
Tokyo	1,700	64	27	0.63	5.6
Seoul	600	43	52	0.71	6.3
Beijing	800	74	67	1.1	9.4
Shanghai	700	112	116	1.8	15

(1) Committee on Methods for Estimating Greenhouse Gas Emissions Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate Division on Earth and Life Studies, National Research Council of the National Academy of Science, National Academies Press, 2010.

A satellite instrument with a 1 ppm sensitivity over a ~100 km down-track segment of its orbit might not detect Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, or Tokyo.

The Minimum Measurable Point Source Flux

- For a satellite like OCO, designed to measure the column averaged dry air mole fraction, X_{CO2}, the minimum measurable flux can be approximated as follows:
  - Assume the minimum detectable change in X_{CO2} is $\Delta XCO2_{min}$ (e.g. 1 ppm)
  - If the CO2 flux, ***F***, is constant over an accumulation time interval, ***t***, the change in XCO2 is given by: $\Delta XCO2 = F \cdot t$
  - If we have an average horizontal wind speed, $u(\theta)$, in direction, θ, over time, ***t***, and a footprint has a horizontal dimension, $x(\theta)$, then the residence time, $t = x/u$
  - The minimum increase in the vertical column is therefore related to the minimum detectable flux as follows

$$\Delta XCO2_{min} = F_{min} \cdot x / u$$

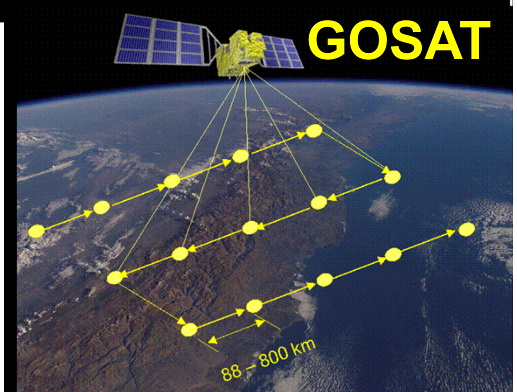
Rearranging, gives

$$F_{min} = u \cdot \Delta XCO2_{min} / x$$

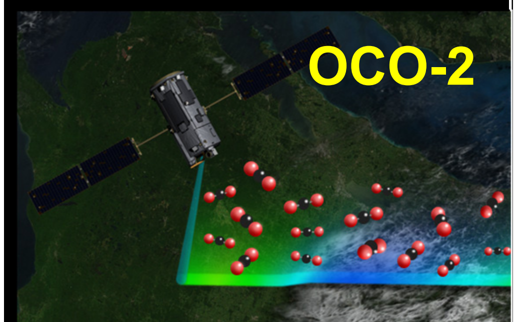
For a given X_{CO2} sensitivity, the minimum measureable CO_2 flux is proportional to wind speed and inversely proportional to footprint size

OCO-2 and GOSAT

	GOSAT	OCO
Gases Measured	CO_2, CH_4, O_2, O_3, H_2O	CO_2, O_2
Instruments	SWIR/TIR FTS, CAI	Grating Spectrometer
IFOV / Swath (km)	FTS: 10.5 / 80-790 (160) CAI: 0.5 / 1000	1.29 x 2.25 / 5.2-10.4
Spectral Ranges (µm)	0.758-0.775, 1.56-1.72, 1.92-2.08, 5.56-14.3	0.757-0.772, 1.59-1.62, 2.04-2.08
Soundings/Day	10,000	500,000 to 1,000,000
Sampling Rate	0.25 Hz	12 to 25 Hz
Orbit Altitude	666 km	705 km
Local Time	12:48	13:30
Revisit Time/Orbits	3 Days/72 Orbits	16 Days/233 Orbits
Launch Vehicle	H-IIA	Taurus 3110 (TBD)
Launch Date	January 2009	February 2013
Nominal Life	5 Years	2 Years



GOSAT was optimized for spectral & spatial coverage



OCO-2 was optimized for sensitivity and resolution

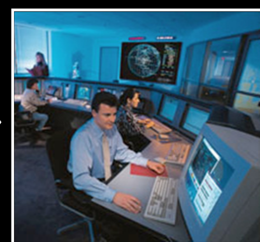
OCO Mission Overview

3-Channel Spectrometer

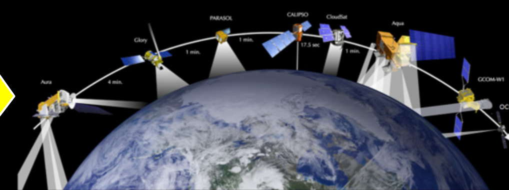
Dedicated Spacecraft bus

Dedicated Launch Vehicle

“Routine” Mission Operations



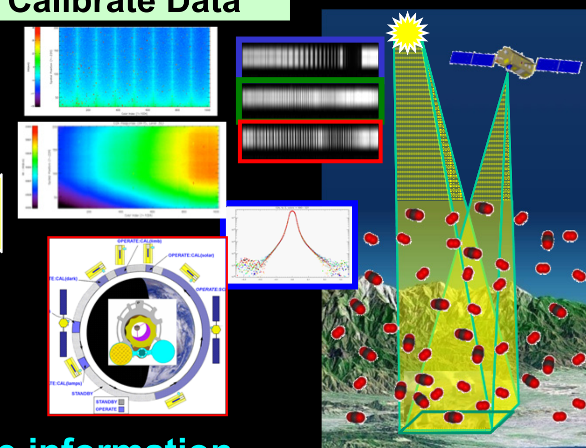
Formation Flying as part of the A-Train Constellation



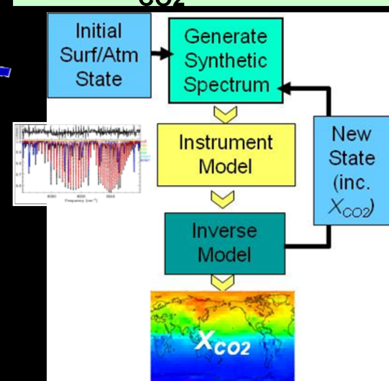
NASA NEN (GSFC) and SN (TDRSS)

Science Data Operations Center (JPL)

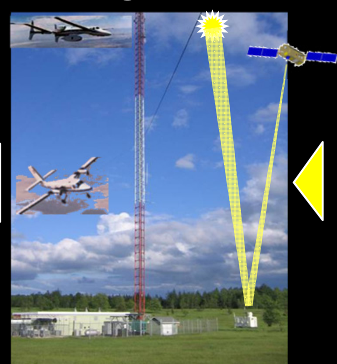
Calibrate Data



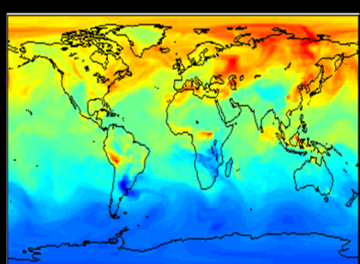
L2 X_{CO2} Retrieval



Validation Program



Products Delivered to a NASA Archive

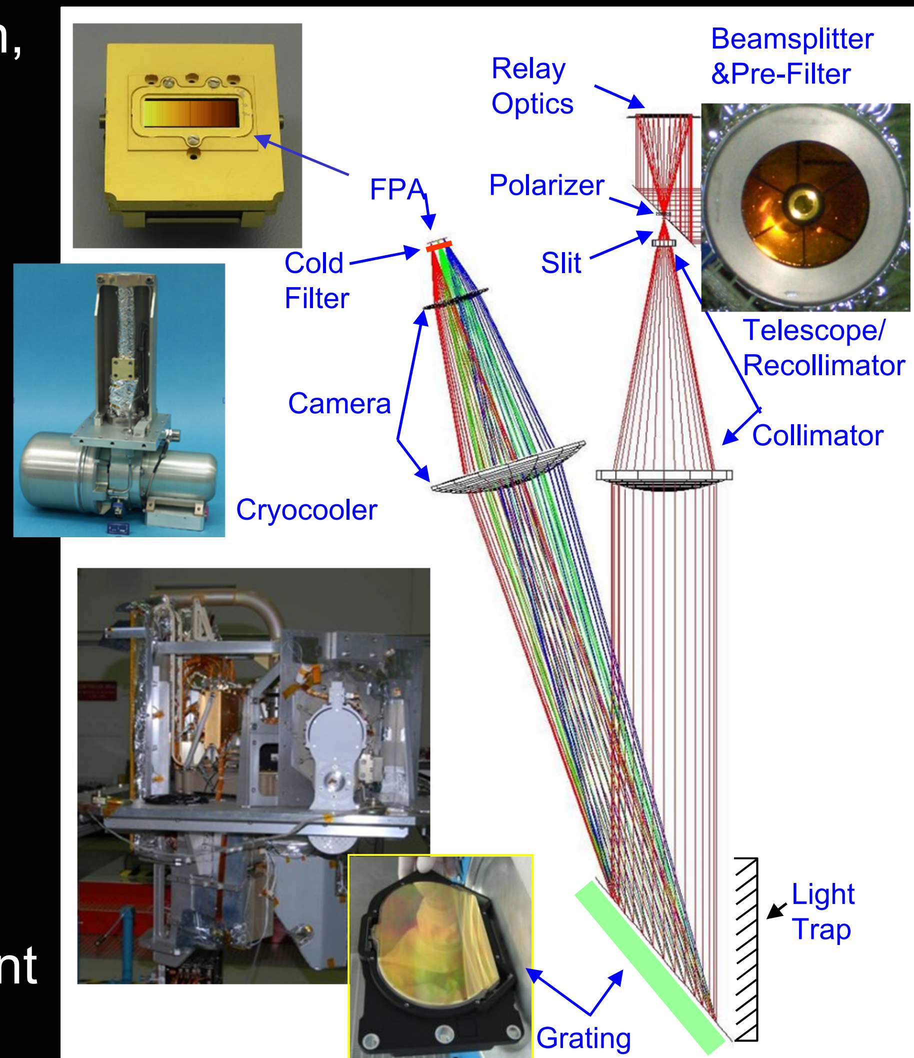


Please visit http://oco.jpl.nasa.gov for more information

The OCO-2 Instrument

- 3 co-bore-sighted, high resolution, imaging grating spectrometers
  - O_2 0.765 μm A-band
  - CO_2 1.61 μm band
  - CO_2 2.06 μm band
- Resolving Power > 20,000
- Optically fast: f/1.8 (high SNR)
- Swath: < 0.8° (10.6 km at nadir)
  - 8 cross-track footprints
  - 1.29 x 2.25 km at nadir
- Mass: 140 kg, Power: ~105 W

Changes from OCO
- Design modified to mitigate residual image & slit alignment anomalies found in testing
- New cryocooler



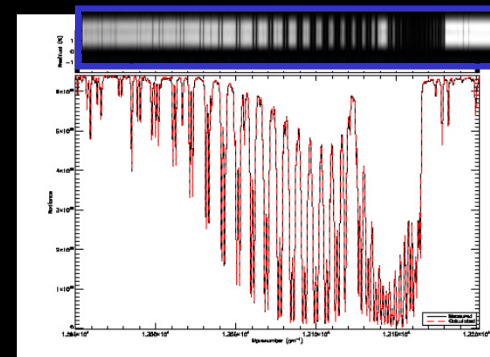
Information Content of OCO-2 Spectra

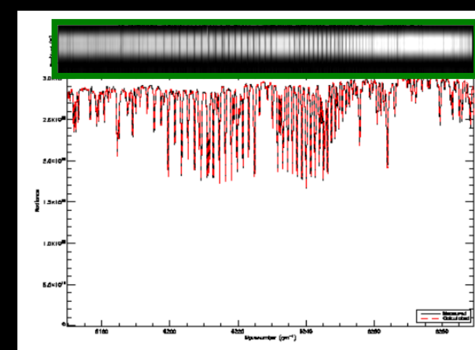
- O_2 A-band at 760 nm provides constraints on surface pressure, optical path length, and thin cloud/aerosol distribution

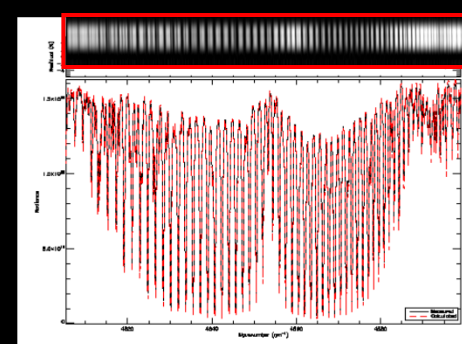
- Absorption in weak CO_2 band at 1610 nm is almost linearly dependent on CO_2 column

- Strong CO_2 band at 2060 nm
    - Somewhat less sensitive to the CO_2 column abundance
    - Very sensitive to clouds and aerosols
    - Also sensitive to water vapor column abundance and temperature profile

- Simultaneous retrievals in these three band provide X_{CO2} estimates







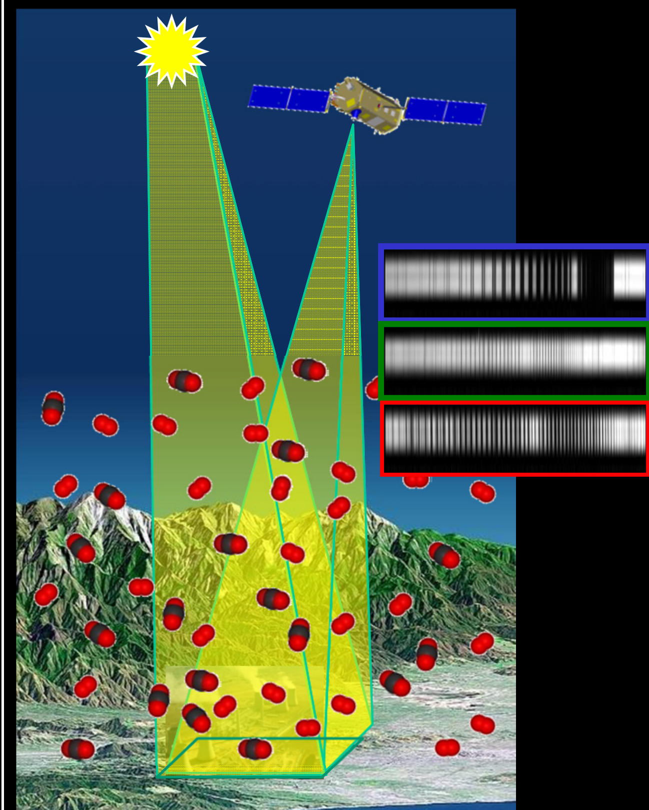
OCO-2 Spacecraft

Orbital Sciences LEOStar-2 Bus
- 0.94 m x 2.1 m hexagonal structure
- 128 Gb of data storage
- 150 Mb/s X-band + 2 Mb/s S-band
- 3-axis stabilized: 4 Reaction wheels + 3 torque bars
- Articulated solar arrays
- Propulsion system for orbit maintenance

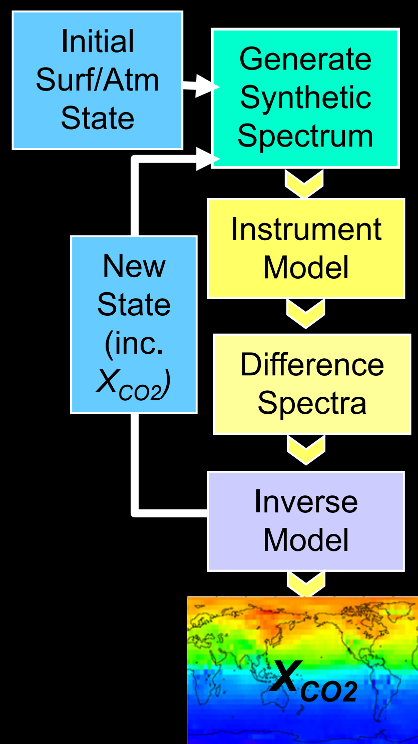
- Minimal changes to replace obsolete parts
  - RAD6000 modified to replace the static read-only memory (SRAM)
  - S-band updated from analog to digital
  - Reaction wheels modified to address lifetime issues
  - Star tracker replaced with new model
  - Obsolete Si course sun sensors replaced with GaAs sensors

Measuring CO_2 from Space

- **Record** spectra of CO_2 and O_2 absorption in reflected sunlight

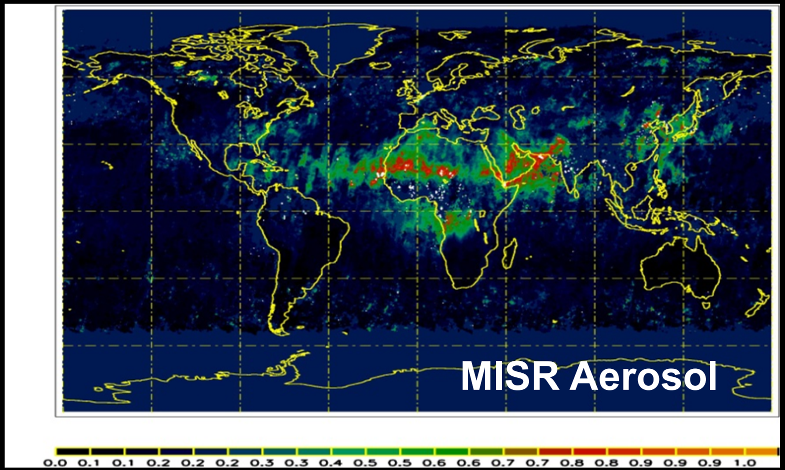


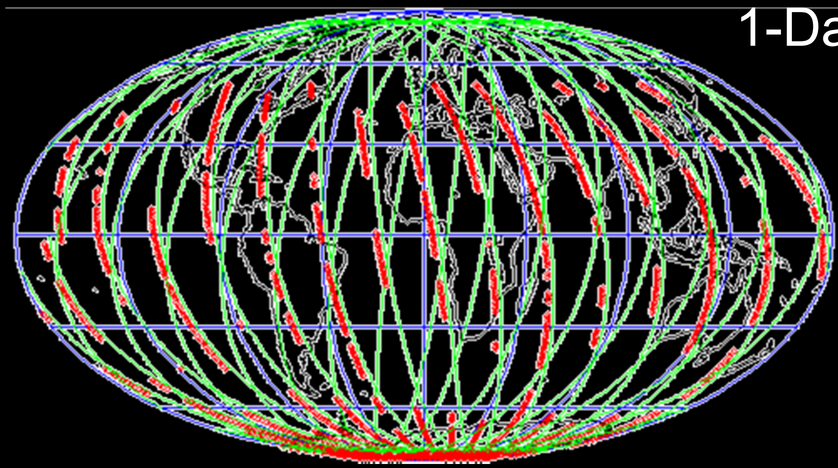
- **Retrieve** variations in the *column averaged CO_2 dry air mole fraction, X_{CO2}* over the sunlit hemisphere

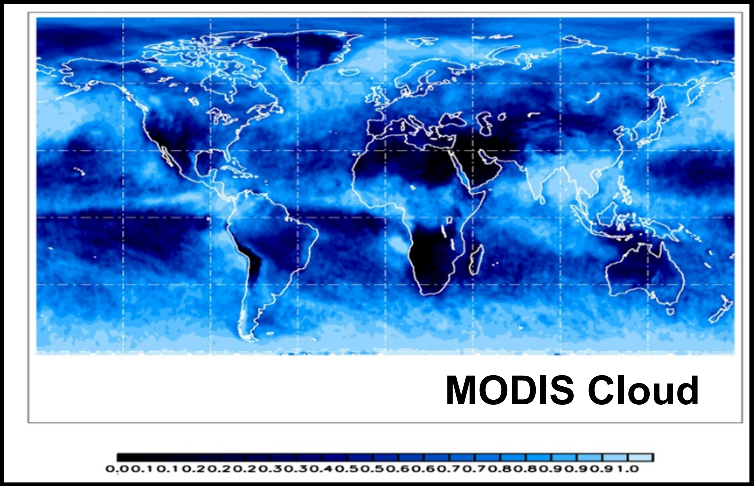


- **Validate** measurements to ensure X_{CO2} accuracy of 1 - 2 ppm (0.3 - 0.5%)

Spatial/Temporal Sampling Constraints





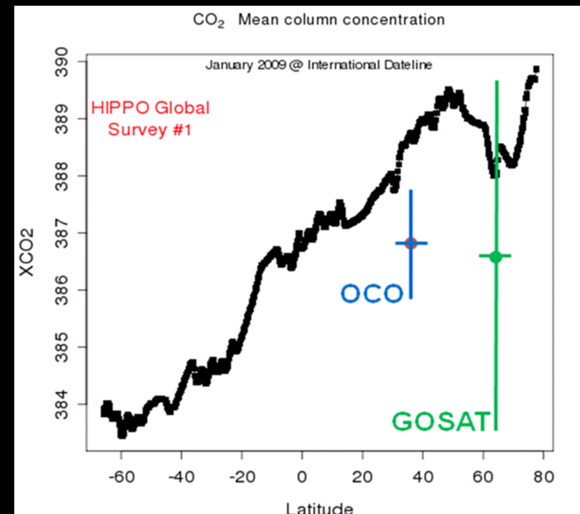


Factors Limiting Sampling Density

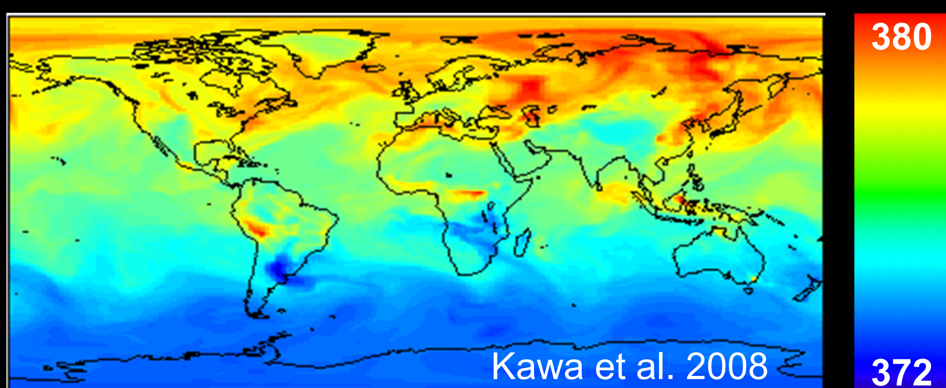
- Orbit ground track
- Clouds and Aerosols
  - OCO can collect usable samples only in regions where the cloud and aerosol optical depth < 0.3
- Low surface reflectance
- Very rough surfaces

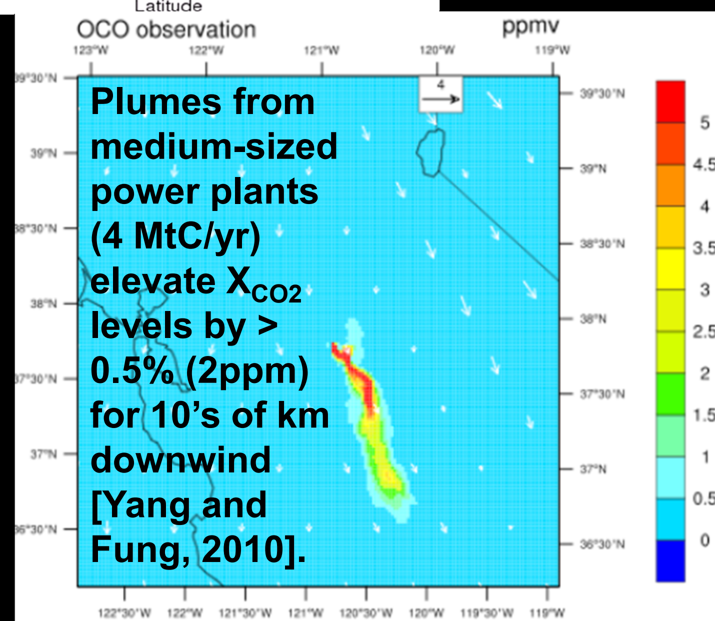
OCO-2 Is Optimized for High Precision

- CO_2 sources and sinks must be inferred from small (<2%) spatial variations in the (387 ±5 ppm) background CO_2 distribution
  - Space based NIR measurements constrain the column averaged CO_2
  - Largest variations near the surface
- High precision is essential to resolve small spatial variations in X_{CO2}
  - OCO-2 yields single-sounding random errors < 1 ppm over most of the sunlit hemisphere



Small spatial gradients in X_{CO2} verified by HIPPO flights [Wofsy et al. 2010]

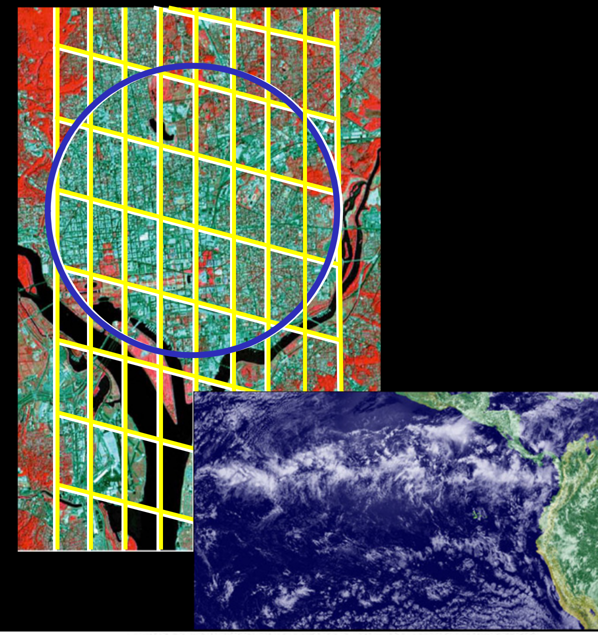


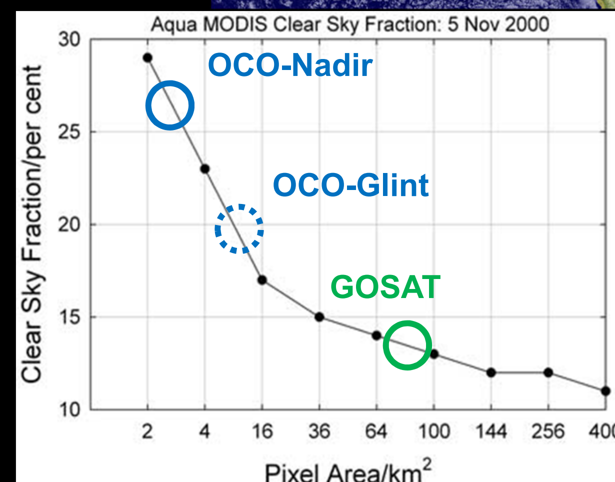


OCO-2 Optimized for High Spatial Resolution

High Sampling Rate:
- OCO-2 collects up to up to 8 soundings @ 3 Hz along a narrow swath (<10.6 km at nadir)
  - Yields 200 – 400 soundings per degree of latitude over sunlit hemisphere
  - Soundings that can be averaged along the track to increase precision

Small footprint (<3 km^2 at nadir) :
- Increases sensitivity to CO_2 point sources
  - The minimum measureable CO_2 flux is inversely proportional to footprint size
- Increases probability of recording cloud free soundings in partially cloudy regions
  - OCO: 27% @ Nadir, 19% for Glint
  - GOSAT (85 km^2): ~10%

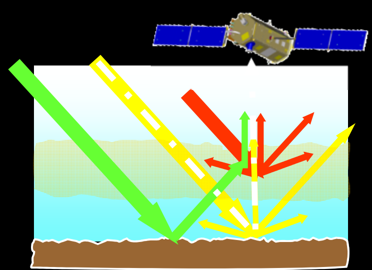


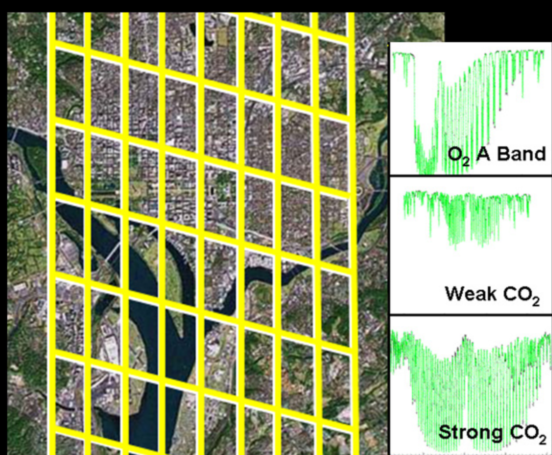


Observation Modes Optimize Sensitivity and Accuracy

Nadir Observations:

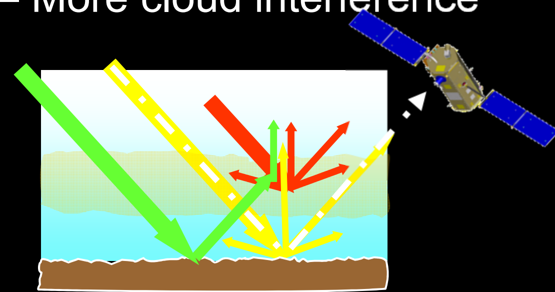
+ Small footprint (< 3 km^2)
– Low Signal/Noise over dark surfaces (ocean, ice)

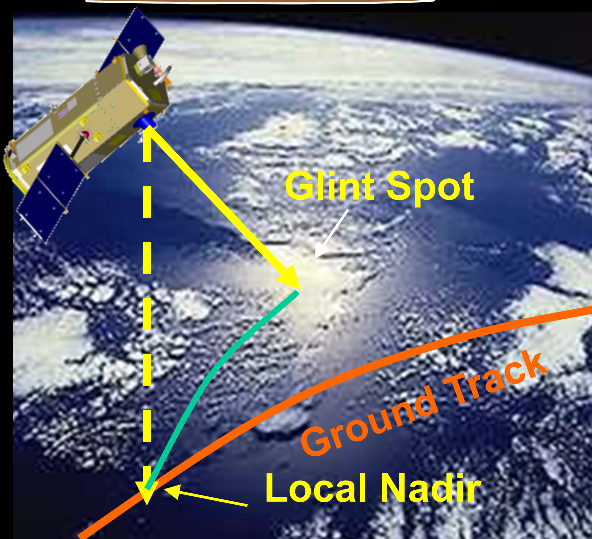




Glint Observations:

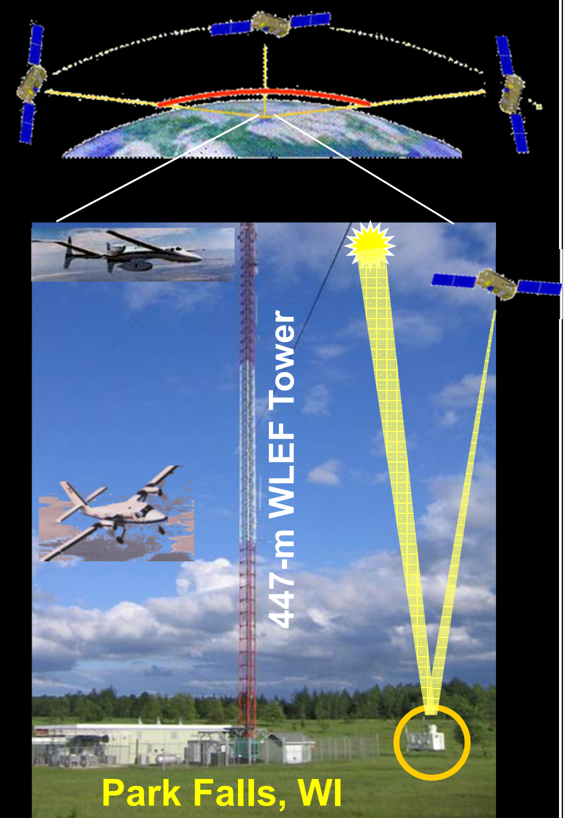
+ Improves Signal/Noise over oceans
– More cloud interference





Target Observations:

- Validation over ground based FTS sites, field campaigns, other targets



OCO-2 Provides High SNR over both Continents and Oceans

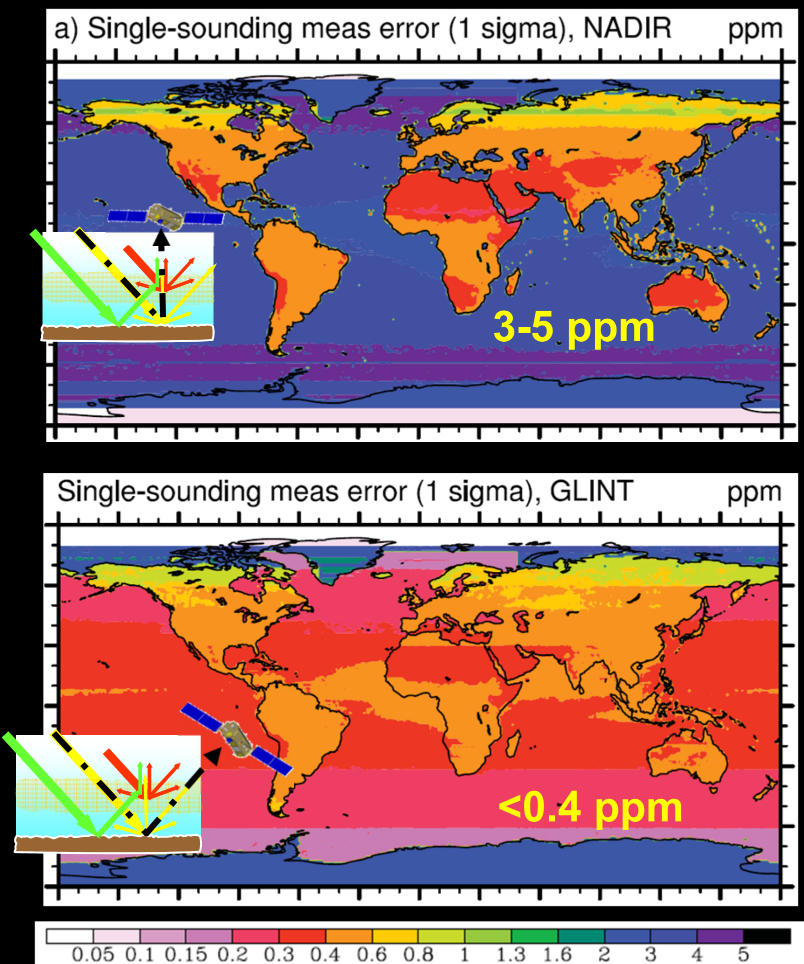
Full global coverage is needed to:

- Resolve X_{CO2} over land and ocean for the full range of latitudes,
- Minimize errors from CO_2 transport in and out of the observed domain

Near IR solar measurements of CO_2 over the ocean are challenging

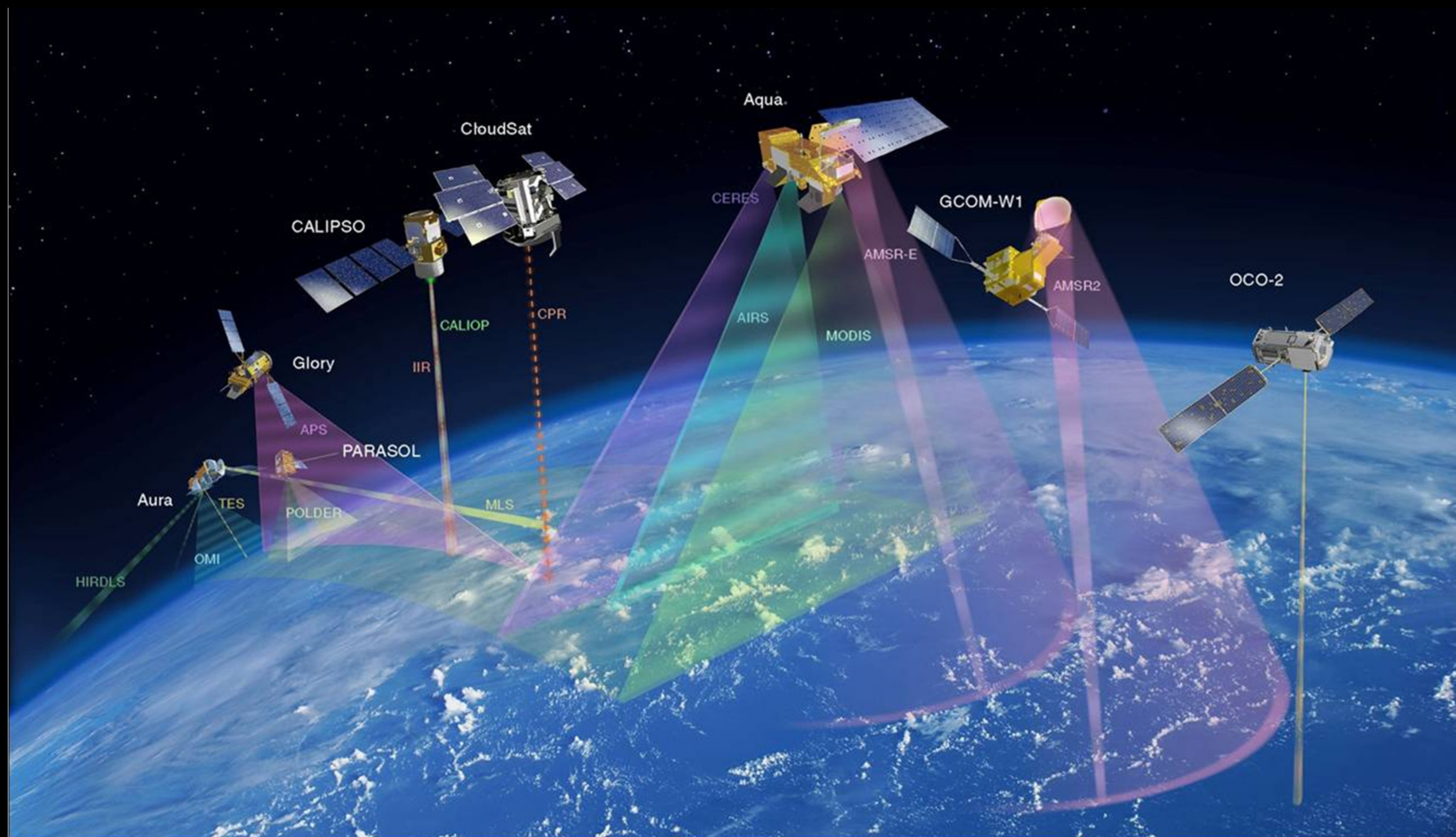
- Typical nadir reflectances: 0.5 to 1%
- Most of the sunlight is reflected into a narrow range of angles, producing the familiar "glint" spot

OCO-2 combines glint and nadir measurements to optimize sensitivity



OCO single sounding random errors for nadir and glint [Baker et al. ACPD, 2008].

OCO-2 Flies at the Head of the A-Train



Like OCO, OCO-2 will fly at the head of the A-Train. However, OCO-2 may fly along the CloudSat/CALIPSO path, rather than the Aqua path to maximize synergy with CloudSat/CALIPSO/MODIS products.

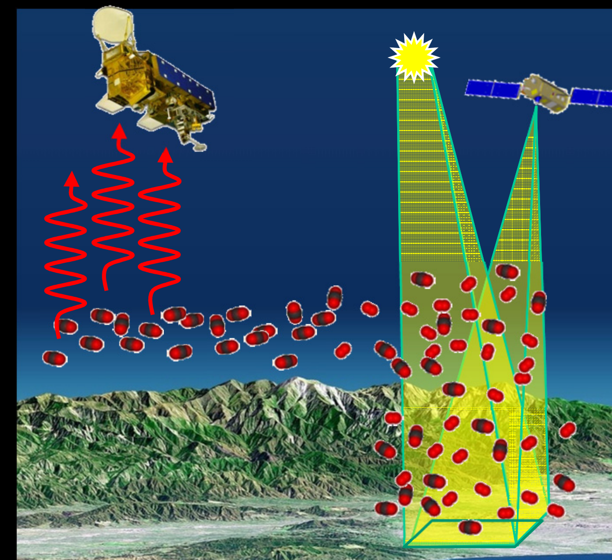
Measuring CO_2: Synergy with AIRS and TES

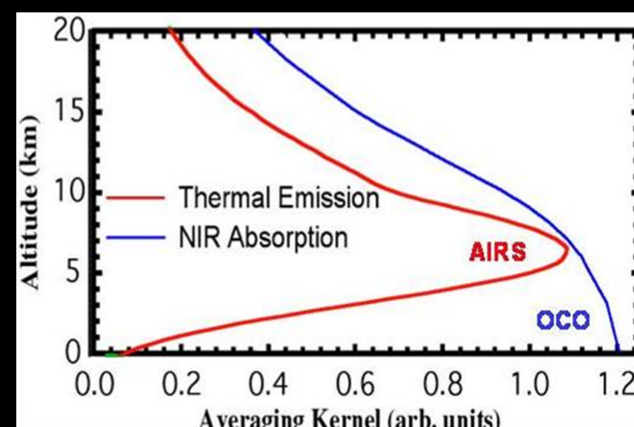
Atmospheric CO_2 can be inferred from both thermal IR or solar remote sensing data

- Thermal IR instruments (AIRS,TES , IASI) measure CO_2 above the mid-troposphere
  - Directly measure the greenhouse forcing by CO_2 in the present climate
  - Provides limited information on sources/sinks

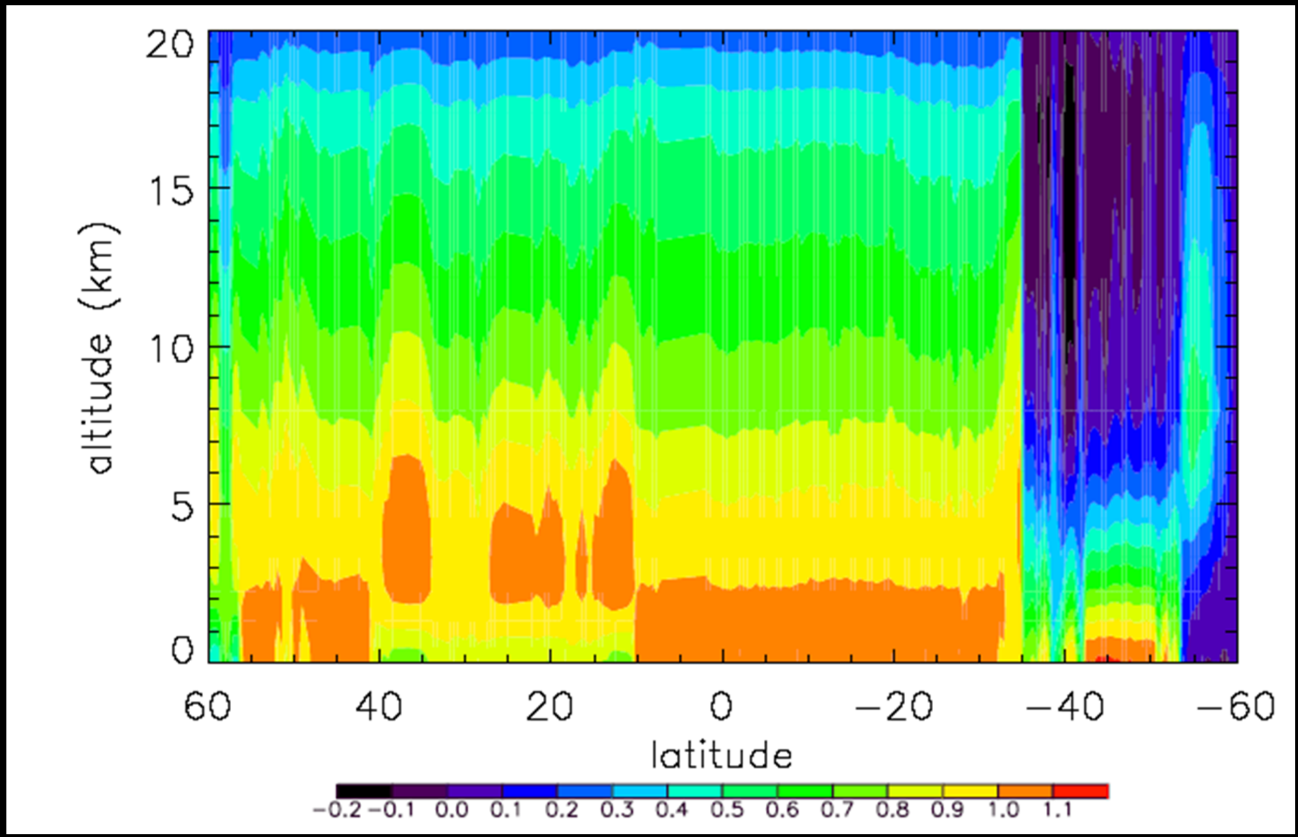
- Solar NIR instruments (GOSAT, OCO-2) measure the total CO_2 column
  - Most sensitive to surface fluxes
  - Provides insight needed to predict future rates of CO_2 buildup and climate impacts

- Combining solar NIR and thermal IR measurements could provide insight into vertical atmospheric transport of CO_2



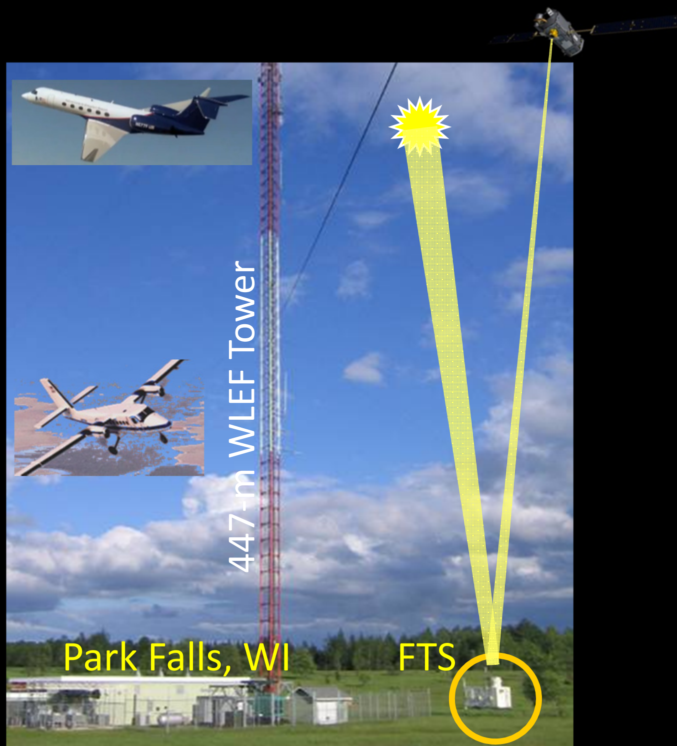


Example: X_{CO2} Averaging Kernel over an OCO-2 Dayside Orbit Track

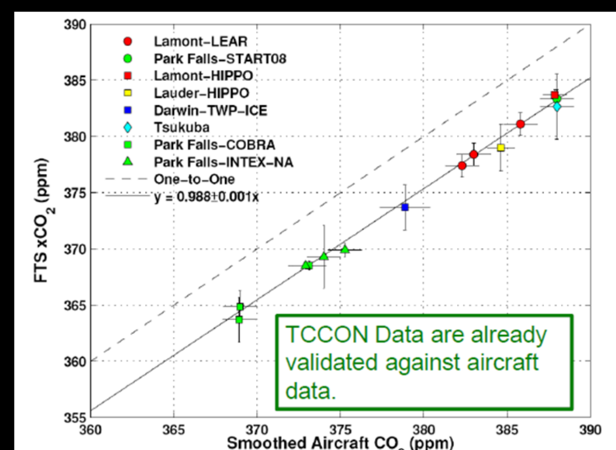


While the OCO-2 averaging kernel is weighted toward the surface, the actual vertical sensitivity for nadir-viewing observations will vary along orbit track as the surface reflectance and aerosol abundance change.

Validating Space-based X_{CO2} against the Ground-Based Standard: TCCON



- OCO-2 data will be validated through comparisons with the Total Carbon Column Observing Network (TCCON)
  - TCCON measures the absorption of direct sunlight by CO_2 and O_2, in the same spectral regions used by OCO-2.
    - Validated against aircraft measurements
  - OCO-2 will acquire thousands of X_{CO2} soundings over TCCON stations on a single overpass.



Operational Uses by NOAA

Operational Use of OCO-2/OCO-3* CO_2 measurements

- This is a great discussion topic
  - How does NOAA plan to use the data?
    - Natural sources and sinks – impacts on climate
    - Fossil fuel emissions (establishing baselines, verifying GHG reduction efficacy , etc.)
    - Combine with AIRS CO_2 and CO to provide constraints on model vertical/horizontal transport
  - What are the data latency requirements?
    - 2.75 hours?, 1 week, 1 month, annual?
  - What accuracy is needed?
    - Is 1 ppm "accuracy" essential?
    - Is 1 ppm precision good enough for short latency applications?

*Proposed Mission Only – Pre-decisional for planning and discussion purposes only

Operational Uses by NOAA: OCO-2 Surface Pressure Measurements

- **OCO-2 will collect 0.5 to 1 million soundings over the sunlit hemisphere each day**
  - **Over 100,000 of these soundings were expected to be sufficiently cloud free to enable surface pressure (and X_{CO2}) retrievals**
  - **For each X_{CO2} retrieval, the O_2 A-Band measurement yields an surface pressure retrieval, with typical accuracies of ± 1 hPa**
- **OCO-2 surface pressure measurements can be combined with AIRS temperature and moisture measurements in meteorological data assimilation models to assess their impact on weather forecasts.**
  - **Largest impacts expected in data sparse regions– such as over oceans**
- **OCO-2 would demonstrate this capability, but is not (currently) designed to deliver measurements on NWP time scales (2.75 hr)**

HPC DAY 7 SFC PROG

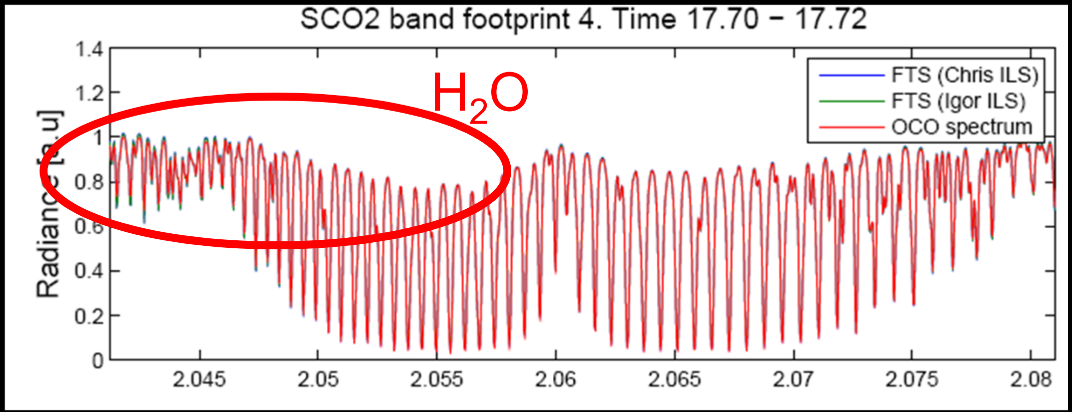
Reducing Data Latency

- OCO data latency requirements originally chosen to minimize cost
  - One downlink per day, up to 7 days to deliver data to the GDS, more than one month to produce geophysical data products to customers
- For operational applications (weather forecasting, surveillance), data latency would become a driving requirement: must be < 2.75 hours
- Delivery of geophysical data products (X_{CO2}) within 2.75 hours requires:
  - Downlinks (@X-band, 150 Mbps, 1 Gbyte/pass) at least once each orbit
  - At least 2 “primary” ground stations (with tuned X-band demodulators)
  - Reliable, high rate (>10 Mbps) transmission lines from station to the GDS
  - Faster retrieval algorithms/more computing power at the GDS
  - Operational interface to customer
- These upgrades could be included for either OCO-2 or the proposed OCO-3 mission* at relatively low cost if included early in the mission implementation planning (i.e. NOW)

Other NWP Variables : Column H_2O

Near-IR retrievals of water vapor column abundance

- Spectra collected in the 2.06 µm channel include numerous strong water vapor lines, useful for retrieving the H_2O column abundance
- These retrievals are most sensitive to the H2O amounts near the surface, (where thermal IR remote sensing methods are least sensitive)
- Comparisons of near-IR and thermal-IR measurements would improve estimates of boundary layer humidity and vertical mixing



Operational Uses by NOAA: OCO-2 Cloud and Aerosol Measurements

Characterization of optically thin clouds and aerosols

- OCO-2 cloud and aerosol measurements could be combined with CloudSat and CALIPSO measurements to more completely constrain the occurrence of thin, high clouds and their impact on the solar radiation budget.
  - A-Band spectrometers were originally included on both CloudSat and CALIPSO, but were descoped during the implementation phases of these missions to control cost
  - The OCO-2 A-Band observations will help to address this need
- High-resolution O_2 A-band measurements can be combined with MODIS cloud measurements to
    - Improve detection over continents and ice-covered surfaces
    - Provide information about the vertical distribution of thin clouds
  - Spectral signature of water ice absorption in 1.61 and 2.06 μm bands clearly discriminates ice and liquid water droplets

Looking ahead

- **OCO-2:** On track for a 2013 launch and 2-year nominal mission
  - The only life limiting consumable is fuel for orbit maintenance (> 5 years)
- **OCO-3*:** NASA's Architecture for Earth Science (June 2010) and the Presidents 2012 NASA budget proposal include funds to assemble the OCO-2 instrument spares to produce a follow-on instrument
  - Available for a flight of opportunity as early as 2015
  - Currently assessing a wide range of host missions
    - ISS, conventional nadir pointing platforms (JPSS), as well as agile (OCO-like) spacecraft in sun-sync & non sun-sync orbits
    - A pointing mechanism is under development to preserve glint and target capabilities on nadir-pointing platforms
- **ASCENDS*:** NASA's next step in CO_2 measurements
  - Would use LIDAR to provide day/night measurements for all seasons and latitudes
  - Baselined for a launch in the 2020 time frame

*Proposed Mission Only – Pre-decisional for planning and discussion purposes only

Appropriate NOAA Follow-on Missions

Following OCO-2, the next logical step for NOAA would be:

- A Broad swath, passive CO_2 instruments on operational satellites
  - The ESA CarbonSat instrument is a good target design
    - 500 km wide swath, yielding global coverage on weekly time scales
    - Preserves OCO-2 like precision and accuracy
  - The primary “technology” drivers: downlink and analysis of the very large amounts of data returned by this system

- GEO applications
  - Provides opportunities to measure diurnal variations in CO2
  - However, this opportunity poses some new challenges
    - TCCON measurements indicate that XCO2 rarely varies by more than 1 ppm away from large sources.
      - Improvements in instrument sensitivity (SNR), stability, and calibration will be needed to resolve these small variations
      - Improvements in the algorithms are needed to produce bias-free retrievals over the diurnal cycle

Summary

- OCO-2 is currently on track for a February 2013 Launch
- The OCO-2 Instrument will collect over 500,000 to 1,000,000 soundings/day along a narrow swath, either along the ground track, or in the direction of the local "glint" spot
- Integration with ground and airborne networks is essential for validating, interpreting, and maximizing the benefit of remote sensing observations
- OCO-2 surface pressure measurements can be used to assess the value of future space-based surface pressure measurements in weather prediction models
- Need a long-term vision to establish and address community priorities
  - Must incorporate ground, air, and space-based assets
  - Must balance calls for new observations with need to maintain climate data records